

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o DCRA/BLRA · 941 North Capitol Street, NE, Ste. 2000 · Washington, DC 20002

CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

2003 ICC FAMILY OF CODES

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CODE: IRC

SECTION NO. 311.5.3.2

SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. R-7

PROPOSING SUBCOMMITTEE: Res

CHAIR: Stovall

PHONE: 301/587-3333 E-mail: John@nsarchitects.com

DATES: OF PROPOSAL: 4/12/05

BCAC PRESENTATION: 4/20/05

BCAC APPROVAL:

CHECK ONE

☒ *Revise section to read as follows:*

☐ *Delete section and substitute the following:*

☐ *Add new section to read as follows:*

☐ *Delete section without substitution.*

TYPE ALL TEXT IN 12-POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT

~~LINE THROUGH TEXT TO BE DELETED~~ (highlight text, under *Format*, click font and check strikethrough)

UNDERLINE TEXT TO BE ADDED

Use additional sheets of the form, if necessary.

R311.5.3.2 Tread depth. The minimum tread depth shall be 9 inches (229 mm)~~10 inches (254 mm)~~. The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the treads leading edge. The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm). Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 10 inches (254 mm) measured as above at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the side where the treads are narrower. Winder treads shall have a minimum tread depth of 6 inches (152 mm) at any point. Within any flight of stairs, the greatest winder tread depth at the 12 inch (305 mm) walk line shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm).

Anticipated impact of code change on cost of construction (CHECK ONE)

☐ *Increase*

☒ *Decrease*

☐ *Negligible*

☐ *Unknown*

If "Increase" box was checked, indicate estimated range of added cost:

Per 1,000 SF single-family dwelling to

Per 1,000SF of commercial building to

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE:

As outlined in Section R101.3 of the IRC, the basis of the code requirements of this Code are to be the minimum requirements for life-safety, not the maximum. The 1996 CABO and prior editions state minimum stair requirements of a maximum rise of 8.25-inches, and a minimum tread depth of 9-inches for private residential stairs. No documentation has been presented that indicates a reduction in riser height of one half-inch, and an additional tread depth of one-inch, has any consequential effect on those who use typical residential stairways.